

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/646,702

Examiner

Steven J. Ganey

Applicant(s)

ANDERSSON ET AL.

Art Unit

3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 25, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6 and 15-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/787,718.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08/25/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 1, line 4, the phrase, --, now U.S. Patent No. 6,634,568-- has been inserted after the phrase "filed on May 31, 2001".

The above change was done to update the current status of the parent application.

In the claims:

Claim 16, line 3, the word --first-- has been inserted before the word "surface".

The above change was done to clearly define the L-shaped section and to provide antecedent basis for "the first surface" in claim 18.

Claim 17, line 3, the word "liquid" has been changed to --slurry--.

The above change was done to maintain proper antecedent basis and to clearly define the invention.

Claim 18, line 1, the numeral "15" has been changed to --16--.

The above change was done to maintain proper claim dependency and to provide antecedent basis for "the first surface" in line 1.

Claim 19, line 1, the numeral "15" has been changed to --17--.

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The above change was done to maintain proper claim dependency and to provide antecedent basis for “the second surface” in line 1.

Claim 20, line 1, the numeral “15” has been changed to --17--.

The above change was done to maintain proper claim dependency and to provide antecedent basis for “the second surface” in line 2.

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance of claim 6: The prior art did not teach or suggest an apparatus for the breaking down of a melt into drops as claimed by the applicant, specifically an apparatus comprising disk units composed of a number of disks arranged axially one on top of the other, whose cross sections include a radial inner section with a mainly U-shaped recess in which a raised, essentially, L-shaped section of the closest underlying disk made in part with a sufficient play therebetween to enable the radial ejection of a jet of liquid, together in combination with the other claimed features of applicant’s invention.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance of claims 15-20: The prior art did not teach or suggest an apparatus for forming drops from a slurry as claimed by the applicant, specifically an apparatus comprising a plurality of rotatable disk units, the disk units comprising a number of disks arranged axially on top on each other, the disks have a cross-section comprising a radially inner section with a substantially U-shaped recess constructed to receive a raised L-shaped section of an adjacent disk with sufficient play therebetween to allow radial ejection of a jet of the slurry, together in combination with the other claimed features of applicant’s invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Ganey whose telephone number is (703) 308-2585. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar, can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

sjg

7/26/04


STEVEN J. GANEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
7/26/04